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Forty-seventh session
THIRD COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee are listed in the letter dated 18 September 1992 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Third Committee (A/C.3/47/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/47/100 and Add.1*). A list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Third Committee is set out in an addendum to the present document (A/C.3/47/L.1/Add.1*).

2. The suggested programme of work (see annex I) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, General Assembly resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and 46/140 of 17 December 1991 on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/47/250) and the availability of documentation, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services. Measures for the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee agreed upon by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 are contained in annex II.

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* To be issued.

Annex I

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, APPROXIMATE DATES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DEADLINE FOR CLOSURE OF LIST OF SPEAKERS

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers
1.	Items 91 and 92 Elimination of racism and racial discrimination Right of peoples to self-determination	5-9 October and and 14 October	Tuesday, 6 October at noon
2.	Item 93 (a) and (b) Social development: (a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (b) Crime prevention and criminal justice	19-26 October a/	Monday, 19 October at 1 p.m.
3.	Item 94 Advancement of women	27 October-2 November	Tuesday, 27 October at 1 p.m.
4.	Item 95 Narcotic drugs	3-9 November	Tuesday, 3 November at 1 p.m.

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers
5.	Item 97		
	Human rights questions	10-25 November b/	Tuesday, 10 November, at 1 p.m.
	(a) Implementation of human rights instruments	10-16 November	
	(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives	17-25 November b/	
6.	Item 96	30 November-3 December	Monday, 30 November at 1 p.m.
	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions		
	(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (b) Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons (c) Humanitarian questions		
7.	Item 12	4 December	Friday, 4 December, at 11 a.m.
	Report of the Economic and Social Council		

Or

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers
5.	Item 96 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions	10-13 November	Tuesday, 10 November at 1 p.m.
	(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (b) Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons (c) Humanitarian questions		
6.	Item 97 Human rights questions	16 November-4 December	Monday, 16 November, at 1 p.m.
	(a) Implementation of human rights instruments	16-20 November	
	(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives	23 November-4 December b/	
7.	Item 12 Report of the Economic and Social Council	30 November	Monday, 30 November at 11 a.m.

Notes

a/ 12 and 13 October: end of the Decade of Disabled Persons - plenary meetings. 15 and 16 October: tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing - plenary meetings.

b/ 26 November is Thanksgiving Day holiday and no meetings will be held on 27 November.

Annex II

MEASURES FOR THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE AGREED UPON BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTIONS 45/175 AND 46/140

Organization of work

An informal meeting of the Third Committee should be held immediately after the election of the members of its Bureau in order to consider the programme of work of the Third Committee based on a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and to consider other organizational aspects relating to the Committee's work, especially the status of documentation.

Pre-session documentation

Pre-session documentation should be circulated six weeks in advance in all working languages.

Introductory statements by Secretariat officials

Texts of introductory statements by Secretariat officials should be circulated to delegations in the original languages and in the other official languages, if possible, at least three days in advance of the introduction of the item. Oral introductory statements should be limited to 15 minutes and should only highlight areas of special interest.

Introductory statements should be made at the beginning of the discussion of an item.

Secretariat officials should, at the end of the debate on a particular item, respond to matters raised and to questions asked.

Guidelines concerning time-limits and number of statements by delegations and Secretariat officials

In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, the Chairman should propose to the Third Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers.

Statements made by delegations or on behalf of groups of delegations and by Secretariat officials, unless decided otherwise by the Committee at the beginning of the session, should not exceed 15 minutes. This time-limit will have to be applied with a degree of flexibility towards all speakers. With a

view to saving time, all speakers are encouraged to exercise self-discipline, in particular delegations associated with group statements. For practical reasons, group statements are encouraged for the first day of the discussion of an item or sub-item. In this connection, it is important to emphasize the timely distribution of documentation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in order to enable delegations to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers at an early stage.

Copies of interventions made by delegations will be distributed by the conference officers. If a delegation is in a position to provide 200 copies, they may be circulated to all delegations during delivery of the statement. If only a limited number of copies can be provided, they may be given to the conference officer for placement at the back of the conference room.

General guidelines regarding the preparation and submission of draft resolutions

In drawing up draft resolutions, delegations are requested to adhere to the programme of work of the Third Committee agreed to in General Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140.

If a report is deemed necessary, clear indications should be given in the draft resolution regarding the contents, scope and nature of the report requested.

Delegations should be urged not to request the inscription of a separate item on the agenda of the Third Committee of the General Assembly if the subject-matter can be dealt with under the existing agenda items indicated in General Assembly resolution 45/175.

With a view to ensuring adequate time for the proper consideration by the Third Committee of draft proposals, delegations are encouraged to circulate their draft texts as early as possible.

In this connection, delegations are invited to take into account the general guidelines agreed upon in General Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 regarding the submission of draft proposals.

Omnibus draft resolutions

Delegations are encouraged, to the extent possible, to draw up omnibus draft resolutions and to make resolutions as short and as concise as possible.

Introduction of draft resolutions

Introductory statements on draft resolutions should be as brief as possible.

Draft resolutions on reports of treaty bodies and reports of the Secretary-General on the status of those treaties

Reports of all treaty bodies will, in accordance with their respective legislative mandates, be submitted to the General Assembly annually. Substantive resolutions on those reports should be adopted biennially, in accordance with the programme of work of the Third Committee. Where possible, it is recommended that separate draft resolutions on the status of the treaties not be submitted but incorporated in the draft resolution relating to the report of the treaty body. In alternate years, the Committee should simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action is deemed appropriate.

Draft proposals emanating from subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting draft proposals to the General Assembly should, to the extent possible, bear in mind the programme of work of the Third Committee.